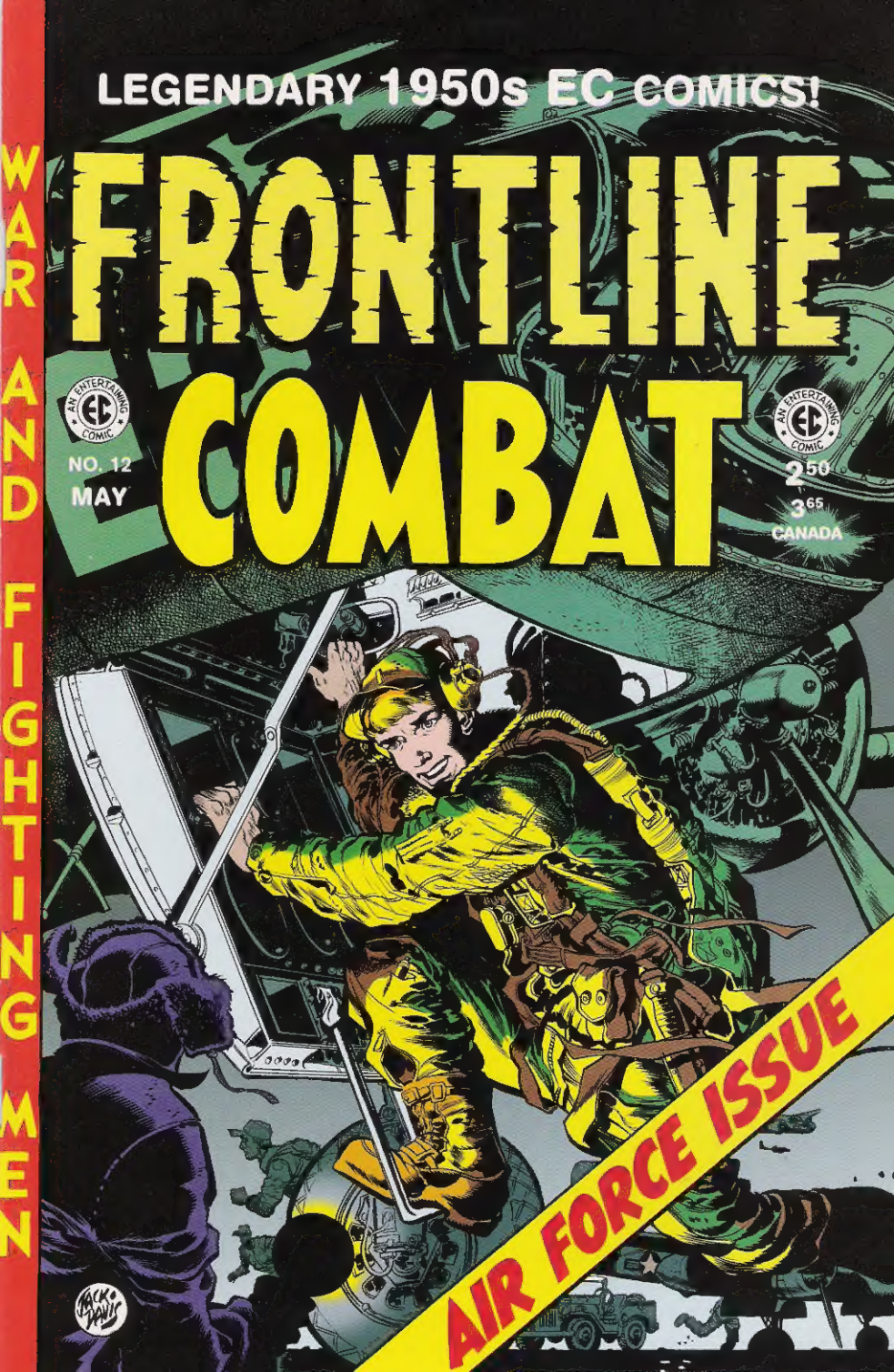
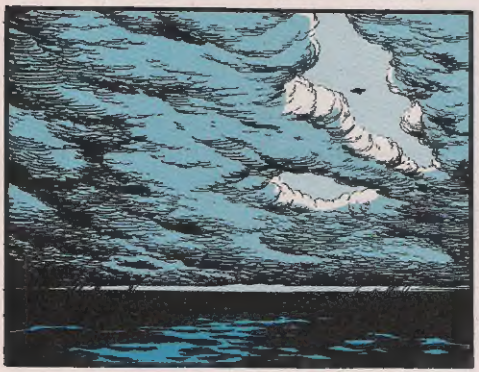
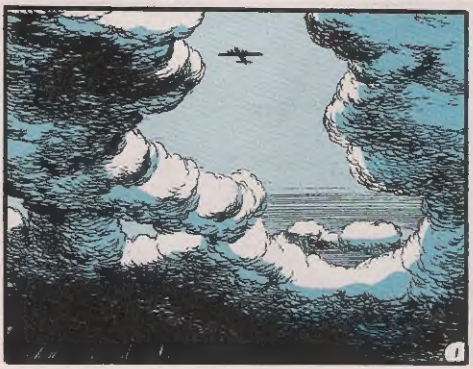

LEGENDARY 1950s EC COMICS!
FRONTLINE COMBAT
AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC
NO. 12
MAY
2.50
3.65
CANADA
AIR FORCE ISSUE
WAR AND FIGHTING MEN

THE AIR FORCE AT HOME! WHETHER WE CARE OR NOT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE MAY BE ATOM BOMBED TOMORROW OR EVEN WITHIN THE HOUR! SOMEBODY HAS TO WATCH THE SKIES DAY AND NIGHT... FOR US... ALL OF US! THIS IS THE JOB OF THE SKYWATCHER! THIS IS THE JOB OF THE LOCKHEED...
F-94!
YEP! THOSE'RE OUR F-94'S! THEY'VE BEEN ON THE ALERT EVER SINCE THE KOREAN WAR... CAN TAKE OFF AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT!
HOT GUNS
GEORGE EVANS

IT IS A COLD WINTERY DAY! FAR, FAR OUT OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, A CHORUS OF POWERFUL ENGINES HUMS HIGH UP IN THE SKY!

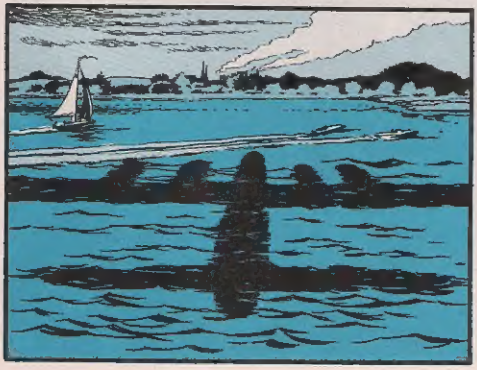


AND IF YOU LOOK HARD, YOU MIGHT CATCH THE MOVEMENT OF A SILHOUETTE BOMBER CREEPING ACROSS THE OCEAN SKY... DRONING TOWARD THE UNITED STATES!

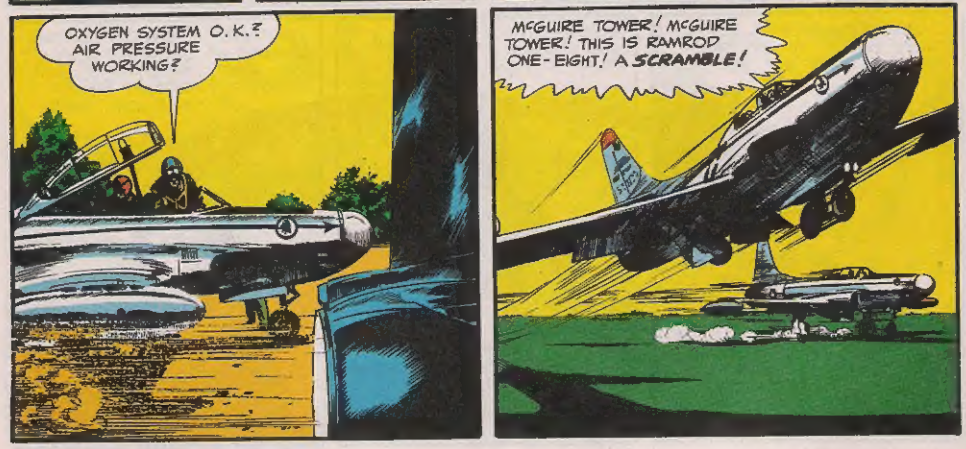


THIS IS THE GROUND OBSERVERS' GUIDE THAT WE GET ALONG WITH OUR 'WINGS' WHEN WE JOIN THE GROUND OBSERVER CORPS! NOW HERE'S THE AMERICAN B-29!
...SEE? ... FOUR MOTORED JOB... TAPERED WINGS... DIHEDRAL ANGLE FROM THE ROOTS! THAT'S THE WAY WE'D CALL IT IN! AND YOU WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING?
DURING WORLD WAR II, THE RUSSIANS INTERNED ONE OF OUR B-29'S AND MADE AN EXACT COPY OF IT!... THE TU-4! MOTORS, WINGS, DIHEDRAL... EXACTLY LIKE THE B-29!
WELLP... SOLONG, FELLAS! I'M OFF TO STAND MY SKY-WATCH AT THE OBSERVATION POST!
AWWW, COME ON, SAM! YOU DON'T HAFTA GO STAND WATCH! COME ON WITH US!
WHAT A CHARACTER!
YEAH!... WASTES A TERRIFIC BASEBALL DAY TO GO WATCH THE SKY!
NOW APPROACHING THE COAST, THE MYSTERIOUS PLANE.. FOUR MOTORS, TAPERED WINGS, DIHEDRAL ANGLED FROM THE ROOTS... DROPS ITS NOSE TOWARDS THE SEA...
...THEN LEVELS OFF, SKIMMING THE SURFACE OF THE SEA... SKIMMING BEHIND THE CURVE OF THE EARTH... SKIMMING BENEATH THE AMERICAN RADAR NET!
2

A SHADOW CAST BY AN UNIDENTIFIED LONG RANGE BOMBER SPEEDS SMOOTHLY OVER THE FLAT OCEAN SURFACE... THEN LEAPS ONTO THE LAND...



...TUMBLING SWIFTLY OVER BROKEN COASTLINE, RIPPLING INLAND STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW TOWARDS A BIG EAST COAST MANUFACTURING CENTER!



DOWN IN THE CITY BELOW, THE AIR-RAID SIRENS ARE SHRIEKING THE HIGH-LOW WAIL THAT SIGNALS 'TAKE COVER'! THE PEOPLE SCURRY ABOUT LIKE ANTS!

HIGH UP OVER THE HEADS OF THE HURRYING PEOPLE, A TINY GROWING SHAPE IS SEEN FOR A MOMENT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS INTO A CLOUD BANK!

WOOO

BROWBEAT! THIS IS RAMROD ONE-EIGHT ON FOX! VECTOR ZERO-NINE-ZERO! ANGELS ONE!

...BOGEY IS TWO O'CLOCK! ANGELS TWO-ZERO! 50 MILES PASSING STARBOARD TO PORT! PROBABLY A BOXCAR!

BROWBEAT! THIS IS RAMROD ONE-EIGHT LEVEL AT ANGELS TWO-ZERO! WHAT NOW?

PHOOEY! DON'T SEE A ***THING!***

RAMROD ONE-EIGHT! THIS IS BROWBEAT... ***PUNCH!***

'PUNCH,' HE SAYS! I DON'T SEE A THING ON THE RADAR SCREEN!

RAMROD TO BROWBEAT! NO JOY!

NO 'JOY' AT ALL! NOT A BLIP IN SIGHT! ...***HEY!***

...***CONTACT!*** RAMROD TO BROWBEAT... ***JUDY!***

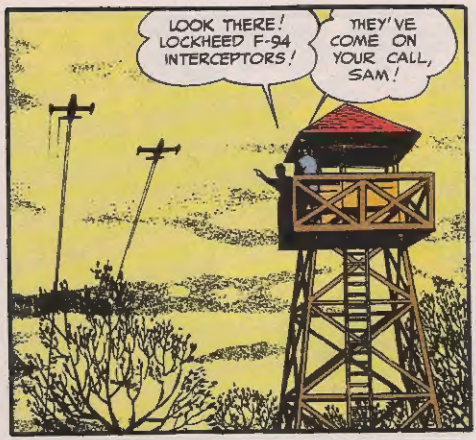
I'VE GOT THE BLIP! WE'RE ON TO THAT BOGEY!

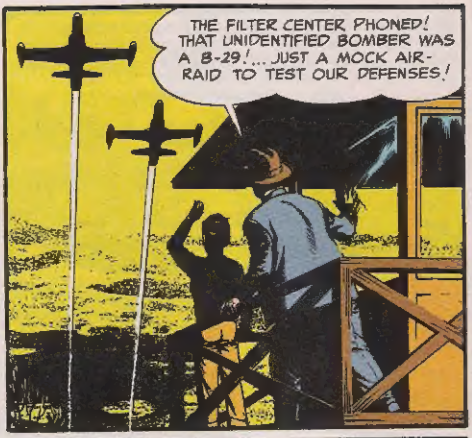
TARGET IS 40° PORT 10,000 YARDS, STILL 5 ABOVE... TARGET IS 30° PORT...

NOW TO GET HIM IN FIRING POSITION...

STEADY! TARGET DEAD AHEAD!

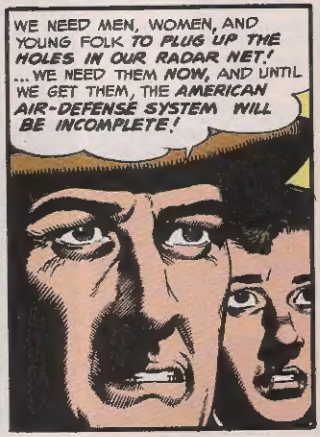
THE PILOT'S RADAR SIGHT IS LOCKED ON TARGET! THE PILOT REACHES FOR A TRIGGER...PRESSES IT, AND INSTEAD OF FOUR 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS SHOOTING RECONVERGING STREAMS OF DEATH, A LITTLE GUN CAMERA WHIRLS AWAY, SHOOTING A ROLL OF FILM! FOR THE TARGET IS MERELY AN AMERICAN BUILT, AMERICAN MANNED ***B-29!***





WE'LL GET A SPECIAL COMMENDATION FOR BEING ON THE JOB! BUT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US! WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 'GROUND OBSERVERS'!

I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT RADAR ALONE CANNOT DETECT ALL INCOMING PLANES... PLANES FLYING LOW THROUGH HOLES IN OUR RADAR NET!


WE NEED MEN, WOMEN, AND YOUNG FOLK TO PLUG UP THE HOLES IN OUR RADAR NET! ... WE NEED THEM NOW, AND UNTIL WE GET THEM, THE AMERICAN AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM WILL BE INCOMPLETE!

A B-29 DRONES BACK ABOVE A SKY-WATCH TOWER THAT, LIKE A SENTINAL, STANDS GUARD OVER A GROUP OF BOYS PLAYING AN EARNEST GAME OF BASEBALL!

THE B-29 TURNS TOWARDS HOME REVEALING FOUR MOTORS... WING DIHEDRAL ANGLE FROM THE ROOTS... JUST LIKE A TU-4! AND WHO KNOWS!... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

THE AIR FORCE IN KOREA! FIRST WE ARE GOING TO FLY WITH THE FIGHTERS! WHEN THE MIG 15 CHALLENGED US IN KOREA, THE AIR FORCE WAS QUICK TO REPLY! THIS STORY CONCERNS THE SWEPT-WING JET THAT WAS THE AIR FORCE'S ANSWER TO THE MIG 15... THE NORTH AMERICAN...

F-86 SABRE JET!

ALEXANDER TOTH '52

YEP! THIS IS A SABRE JET! GOOD SHIP! I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ***HOW*** GOOD! THE NEWSPAPERS CAN TELL YOU ***THAT!***

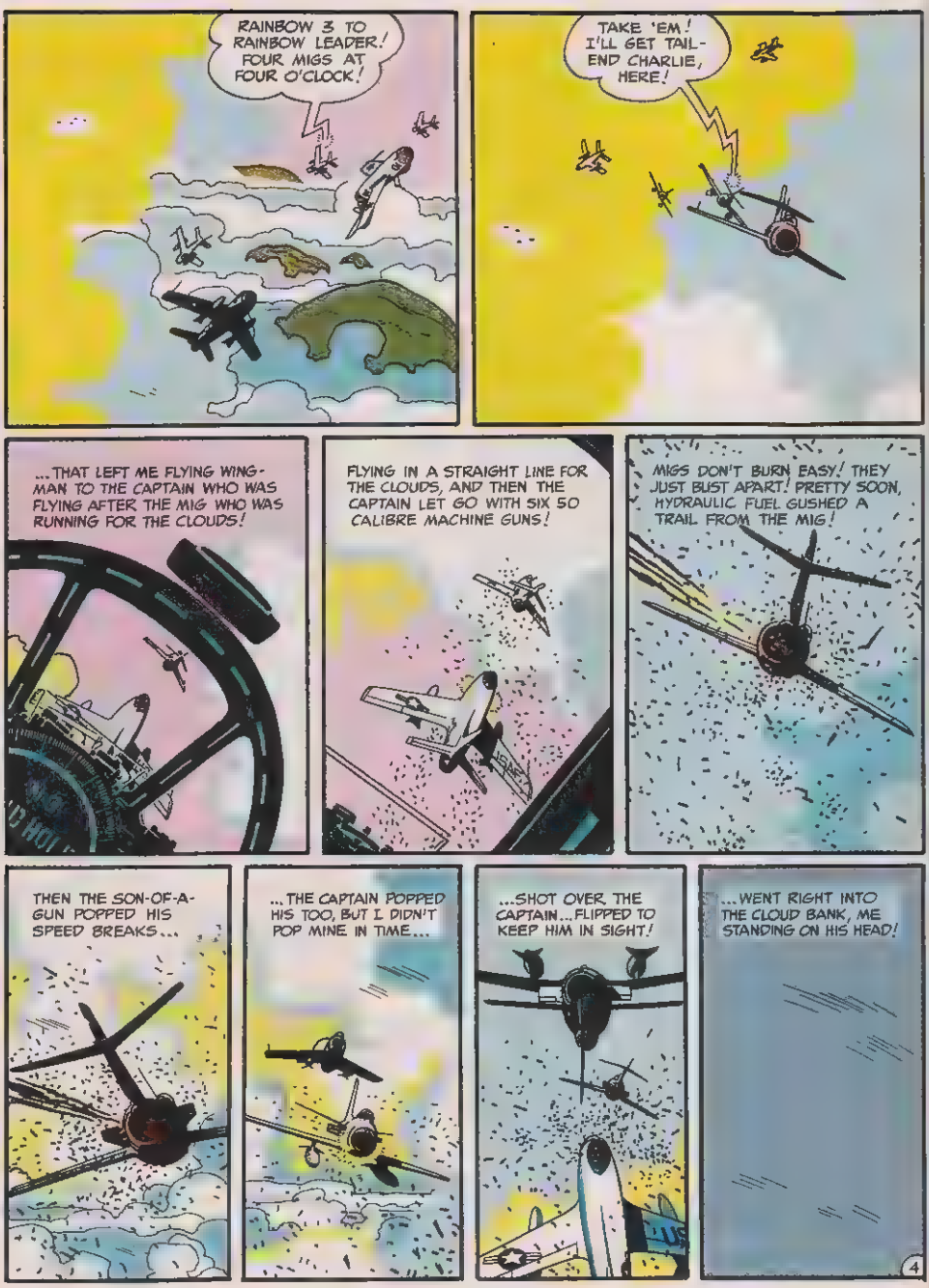
BUT I'LL TELL WHAT IT'S LIKE FLYING ONE!... LIKE THE TIME WE WERE FLYING A COMBAT PATROL BENEATH THE OVERCAST...

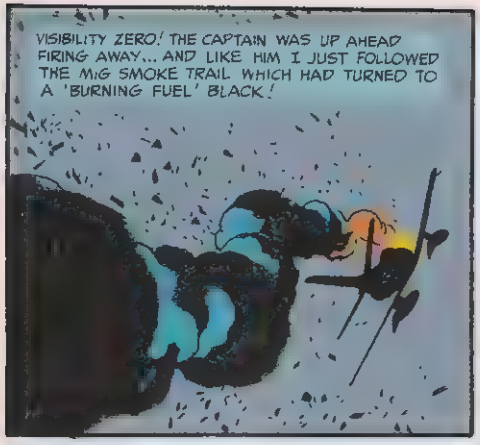
...SUDDENLY, A CALL FOR HELP CAME IN OVER THE INTERCOM...

THIS IS APPLEGATE 92! ANY SWEPT WINGS IN THE AREA?

I'VE GOT FOUR BANDITS 35,000 FEET ABOVE OVERCAST! CAN YOU HELP ME OUT?
ROGER, APPLEGATE 92! THIS IS RAINBOW LEADER! WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?
...BEATS THE HECK OUTTA ME!
HANG ON! WE'LL FIND YOU!
THAT'S THE WAY THE SHOW STARTED! UP ABOVE US, THE CLOUDS STRETCHED AWAY LIKE A BILLOWY BLANKET!
THERE WERE FOUR IN OUR FLIGHT! I WAS THE NUMBER TWO MAN AND WINGMAN TO THE CAPTAIN...OUR 'RAINBOW LEADER'!
SO I PUSHED OUT SECOND THROUGH THE OVERCAST WHERE WE ALL JOINED UP CIRCLING... SEARCHING THE SKY!
RAINBOW 2 TO RAINBOW LEADER! VAPOR TRAILS AT TEN O'CLOCK!
ROGER! I SEE 'EM!
APPLEGATE 92 TO RAINBOW LEADER! HURRY UP! I'M LOW ON THE FUEL!
...BE THERE IN A MINUTE!
2

WE DIDN'T SEE THE PLANES AT FIRST! JUST THEIR GHOSTLY VAPOR TRAILS! AND ONE SET OF TRAILS BEING FRESHLY MADE...
...SUDDENLY THEY AND CAME RIGHT AT US, POINTED BY A ROW OF SHINY LITTLE JETS FLASHING IN THE SUN!
ROUND FUSELAGES...STABILIZERS HIGH UP ON THE RUDDERS, BURNISHED ALUMINUM...RED TIPPED NOSES...MIGS!
THEY CAME ON IN A WIDE RANGING TURN AND WE TURNED INTO THEM! PRETTY SOON WE HAD WHAT IS KNOWN AS A 'LUFBERY CIRCLE'!
A VERY OLD MANEUVER! LIKE A MERRY-GO-ROUND! AS LONG AS YOU CIRCLE, THE ENEMY CAN'T BRING HIS GUN TO BEAR...AND YOU CAN'T EITHER!
TIGHTER AND TIGHTER WE CIRCLED, LOSING ALTITUDE! THEN THE ENEMY FORMATION STARTED BREAKING...TWO BROKE RIGHT...
...AND IF YOU ASK ANY JET PILOT, HE'LL TELL YOU HOW BREAKING FORMATION IS JUST PLAIN SUICIDE! NOW THE THIRD MIG BROKE AWAY!
3

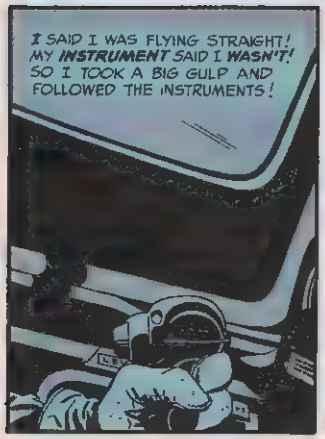

RAINBOW 3 TO RAINBOW LEADER! FOUR MIGS AT FOUR O'CLOCK!
TAKE 'EM! I'LL GET TAIL-END CHARLIE, HERE!
...THAT LEFT ME FLYING WING-MAN TO THE CAPTAIN WHO WAS FLYING AFTER THE MIG WHO WAS RUNNING FOR THE CLOUDS!
FLYING IN A STRAIGHT LINE FOR THE CLOUDS, AND THEN THE CAPTAIN LET GO WITH SIX 50 CALIBRE MACHINE GUNS!
MIGS DON'T BURN EASY! THEY JUST BUST APART! PRETTY SOON, HYDRAULIC FUEL GUSHED A TRAIL FROM THE MIG!
THEN THE SON-OF-A-GUN POPPED HIS SPEED BREAKS...
...THE CAPTAIN POPPED HIS TOO, BUT I DIDN'T POP MINE IN TIME...
...SHOT OVER THE CAPTAIN...FLIPPED TO KEEP HIM IN SIGHT!
...WENT RIGHT INTO THE CLOUD BANK, ME STANDING ON HIS HEAD!
4


VISIBILITY ZERO! THE CAPTAIN WAS UP AHEAD FIRING AWAY... AND LIKE HIM I JUST FOLLOWED THE MiG SMOKE TRAIL WHICH HAD TURNED TO A 'BURNING FUEL' BLACK!

I FELT THE BLAST AND SAW THE GLOW RIGHT THROUGH THE CLOUDS WHEN THAT MiG BLEW UP!... AND THAT WAS THE END OF CHAPTER ONE IN MY LITTLE NARRATIVE!

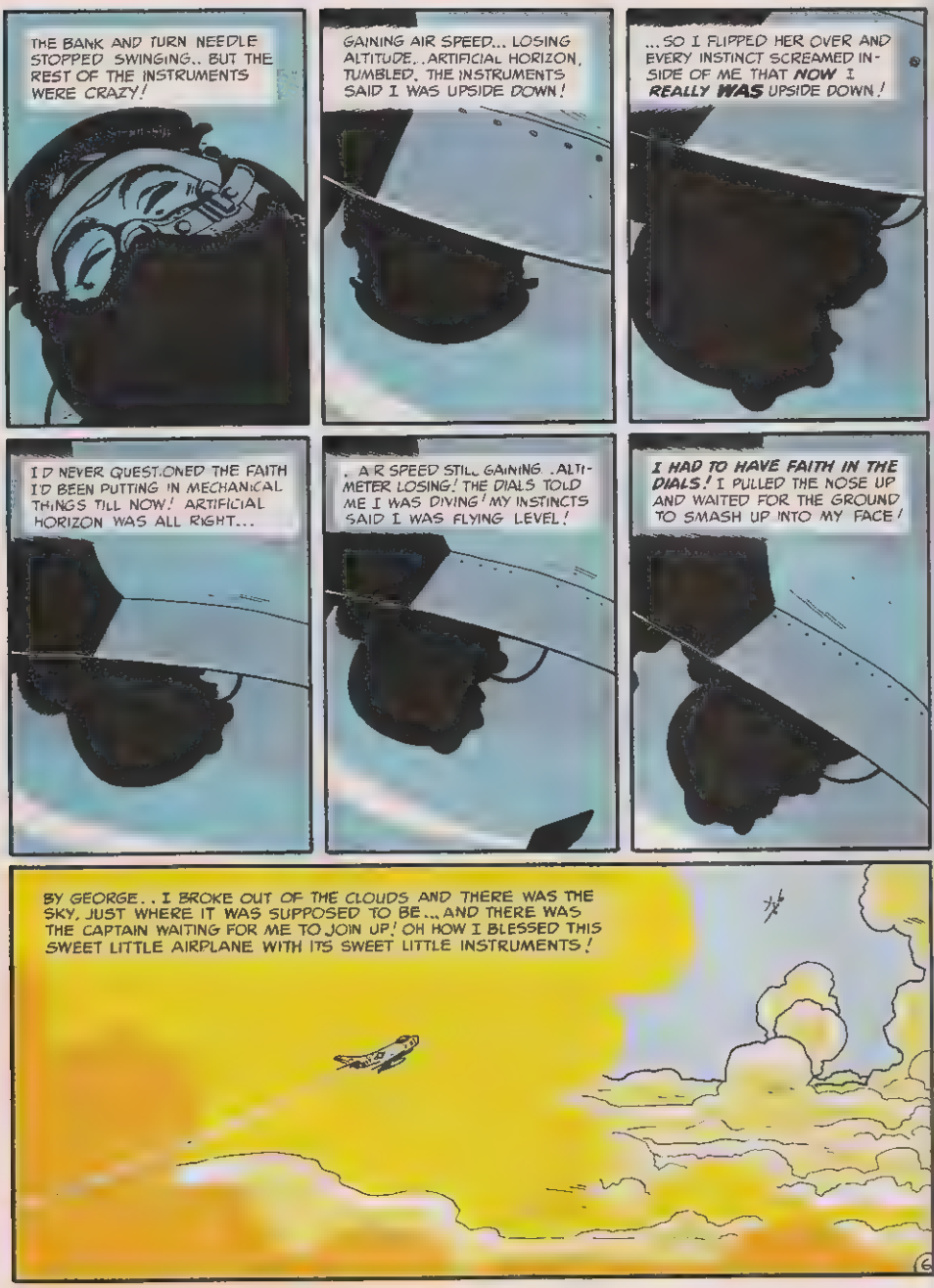
THEN I WAS ALONE WITH ONLY THE NOISE OF THE ENGINE...LIKE AIR RUSHING BY AN OPEN WINDOW. . AND ALL AROUND ME... GREY, OPAQUE CLOUD! THAT'S WHEN 'VERTIGO' HIT ME!

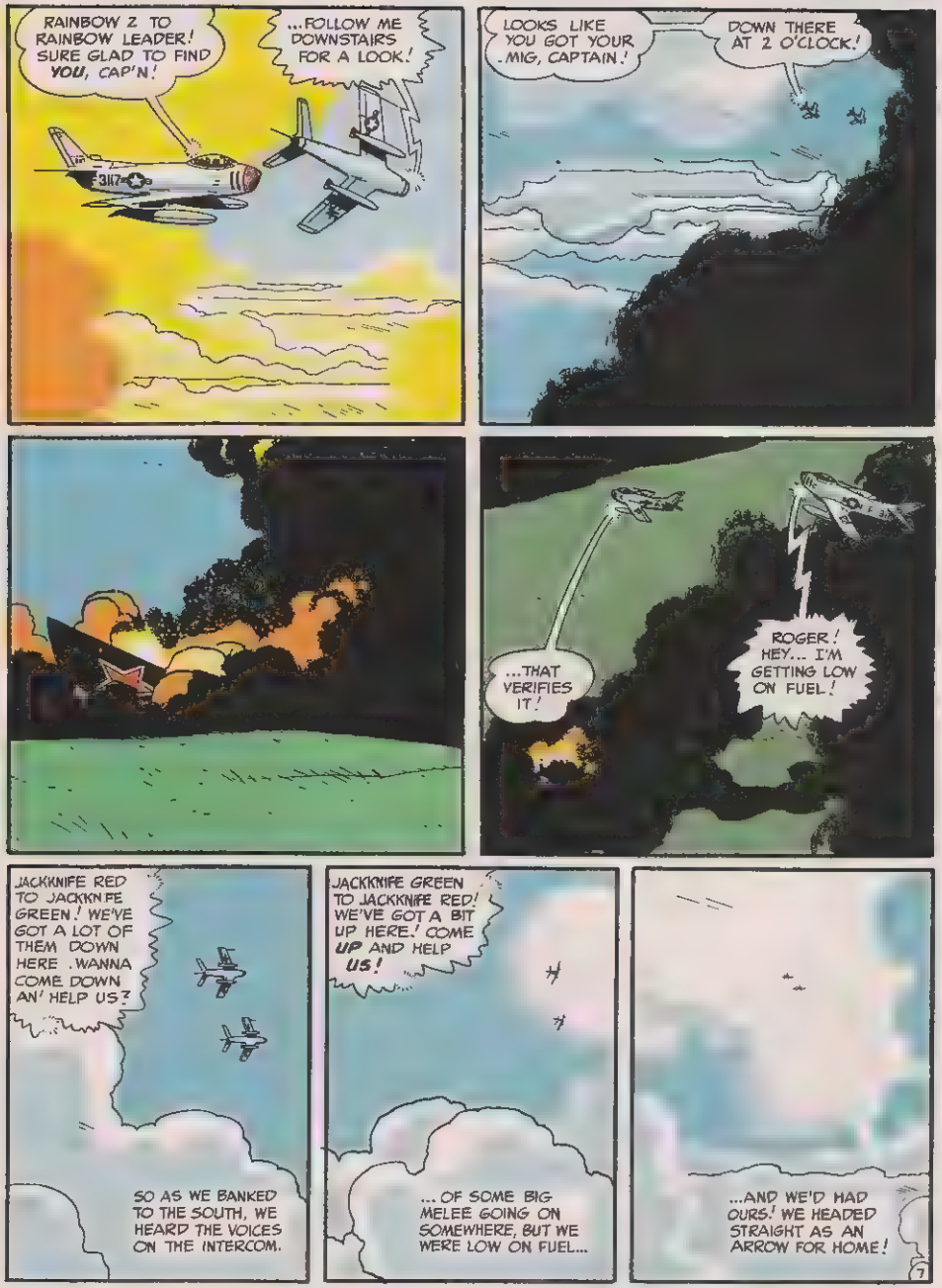
VERTIGO! THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT WHEN YOU HANG IN THE SKY WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF THE HORIZON AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE FLYING UP OR ZOOMING DOWN INTO THE GROUND!


I SAID I WAS FLYING STRAIGHT! MY INSTRUMENT SAID I WASN'T! SO I TOOK A BIG GULP AND FOLLOWED THE INSTRUMENTS!

IN A CASE LIKE THIS YOU LOOK AT EVERY DIAL SEVENTY TIMES A SECOND... FIRST I HAD TO STOP REVOLVING...

...AND WHEN I DID, I WOULD HAVE SWORN I WAS SITTING IN THAT COCKPIT FORTY-FIVE DEGREES TO THE HORIZON!


THE BANK AND TURN NEEDLE STOPPED SWINGING.. BUT THE REST OF THE INSTRUMENTS WERE CRAZY!
GAINING AIR SPEED... LOSING ALTITUDE.. ARTIFICIAL HORIZON, TUMBLED. THE INSTRUMENTS SAID I WAS UPSIDE DOWN!
...SO I FLIPPED HER OVER AND EVERY INSTINCT SCREAMED INSIDE OF ME THAT NOW I REALLY WAS UPSIDE DOWN!
I'D NEVER QUESTIONED THE FAITH I'D BEEN PUTTING IN MECHANICAL THINGS TILL NOW! ARTIFICIAL HORIZON WAS ALL RIGHT...
. AIR SPEED STILL GAINING . ALTIMETER LOSING! THE DIALS TOLD ME I WAS DIVING! MY INSTINCTS SAID I WAS FLYING LEVEL!
I HAD TO HAVE FAITH IN THE DIALS! I PULLED THE NOSE UP AND WAITED FOR THE GROUND TO SMASH UP INTO MY FACE!
BY GEORGE.. I BROKE OUT OF THE CLOUDS AND THERE WAS THE SKY, JUST WHERE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE... AND THERE WAS THE CAPTAIN WAITING FOR ME TO JOIN UP! OH HOW I BLESSED THIS SWEET LITTLE AIRPLANE WITH ITS SWEET LITTLE INSTRUMENTS!


RAINBOW 2 TO RAINBOW LEADER! SURE GLAD TO FIND YOU, CAP'N!
...FOLLOW ME DOWNSTAIRS FOR A LOOK!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT YOUR .MIG, CAPTAIN.!
DOWN THERE AT 2 O'CLOCK!
...THAT VERIFIES IT!
ROGER! HEY... I'M GETTING LOW ON FUEL!
JACKKNIFE RED TO JACKKNIFE GREEN! WE'VE GOT A LOT OF THEM DOWN HERE .WANNA COME DOWN AN' HELP US?
SO AS WE BANKED TO THE SOUTH, WE HEARD THE VOICES ON THE INTERCOM.
JACKKNIFE GREEN TO JACKKNIFE RED! WE'VE GOT A BIT UP HERE.! COME UP AND HELP US!
... OF SOME BIG MELEE GOING ON SOMEWHERE, BUT WE WERE LOW ON FUEL...
...AND WE'D HAD OURS! WE HEADED STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW FOR HOME!

FRONT LINES

President and CEO—Stephen A. Geppi **Publisher—Russ Cochran**

Dear FRONTLINE.

Re. issue #11: In "Bird-Dogs!" visual effects dominate the dialog. One identifies with the airborne soldiers, trying to interpret the tiny images, shadows, etc. It seems like the pilot uses his heavy accent only when flying, not on the ground.

The unfortunate soldier in "Rough Riders!" had a bad case of the crabs! A shot to the leg would be more likely to immobilize the soldier, but I guess the sniping angle is wrong. One assumes this really happened–this would be hard to just dream up.

In "Lufbery!", why were parachutes not in general use during WW I? Were they unsafe? Were the pilots too macho?

The corsair we follow in "Sailor!" is more of a framing piece than a central element. The main story is a 5 1/2 plus-page segue from the plane. Please print address.

Bob Gorby
13153 Sunny LN
Camarillo, CA 93012

30 years before Tom Wolfe rubbed our nose in the Stuff, EC knew pilots go all compone behind the stick, y'all. As for parachutes, it's our contention chutes were too primitive and planes too cramped, strung up with wires and flown too low for this to be practical during WWI.

Dear FRONTLINE,

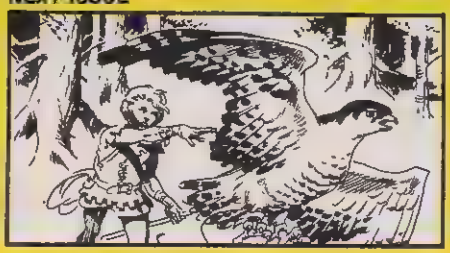
At first thought, "Rough Riders!", FRONTLINE COMBAT #11, has the air of science fiction about it: crabs feasting on helpless, wounded soldiers. But I recall reading a John Jakes novel that had a chapter about these voracious crabbies. Of course that doesn't make it true. Is it?

The ending of "Lufbery!" was not 'rosy.' Of course he could have jumped into a cemetery instead of a rose garden; now that would have been a real "punch line."

Richard Jepeal
New Britain, CT

No piece of exotic trivia is considered authentic unless you read it in a John D. MacDonald (or, for hardware/technical, Tom Clancy). Still, never take a Sominex while camping at the beach.

NEXT ISSUE



To FRONTLINE COMBAT (issue #11),

Who's the comedian? Page 3 of the story "Bird-Dogs!" panel 4, an item is called a "Kit First Aid Aeronautic U.S." but in panel 5 the same item is now called a "First Aid Kit Aeronautic U.S."

Can somebody give me some background information on the artist Ric Estrada, the man who illustrated "Rough Riders!"?

"Lufbery!" page 1 panel 4, caption reads: "I sam him climb, alone. . .soaring into the sky like a bird!" What? Who hit the wrong key on the typewriter?

I'm sure glad I read the story "Sailor!" on an empty stomach. . .Good Lord!

David Dellario
Kensington, CT

Ah. You're the guy with the overhead projector who looks the ECs over for tiny inconsistencies. The 3 GhouLunatics warned us about you (the same day they borrowed a hunk of rope and asked us if we remembered how to knot a noose). The Crypt-Keeper advised us to tell you:

The recon plane hit some bumpy air that scrambled all equipment labels, and the bird's name was Sam.

Estrada did a mountain of work for DC's war comics, post-EC. He had a Latin-American background.

Also available this month are PIRACY #3, HAUNT and CRIME. Watch for CRYPT, PANIC and another issue of PIRACY next month. Don't forget VAULT and TWO-FISTED, coming soon! Get them at your local comic book shop or SUBSCRIBE (see our ad in this comic for details)!

BACK ISSUES: CRYPT #1, sold out; FRONT #1-4, $2 each, all others up thru issue #3, $1.50 each; CRYPT, W SCI & SHOCK #4-16, and VAULT, W FAN, 2FIST, HAUNT and CRIME #4-15, $2 each. All others, $2.50 each (Latest issues: CRYPT, VAULT, 2FIST, HAUNT and CRIME are up to 23, FRONT to 12, PANIC to 5 and PIRACY to 3.).

Don't forget: the completed run of WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY/INCREDIBLE SCIENCE FICTION, all 11 issues, #1-3 are $1.50 each, #4-11, $2 each; the completed run of SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES, all 18 issues, #1-3 are $1.50 each, #4-16 are $2.00 each and #17-18 are $2.50 each; the completed run of WEIRD SCIENCE, all 22 issues, #1-3 are $1.50 each, #4-16 are $2.00 each and #17-22 are $2.50 each; and the completed run of WEIRD FANTASY, all 22 issues, #1-3 are $1.50 each, #4-15 are $2.00 each and #16-22 are $2.50 each.

Add $5 per order ($10 outside US) for S&H.

We want MORE letters! Write to:
FRONTLINE COMBAT
GEMSTONE
POB 469
WEST PLAINS MO 65775

THIS COMIC REPRINTS
FRONTLINE COMBAT #12 (MAY/JUN 1953)

COVER by Jack Davis	
"F-94!"	George Evans
"F-86 Sabre Jet!"	Alex Toth
"B-26 Invader!"	Jack Davis
"H-5!"	Wally Wood

We welcome letters of comment. We cannot promise to acknowledge, publish or answer letters unless you clearly state you wish them published. We attempt to acknowledge publication of letters; to do so we need your address on the individual letter. We edit for clarity, accuracy and length. We automatically withhold street address and zip code

TEAR 'EM UP

At the stroke of twelve
At the 'Chicken-All-Nite'
Hear the teenage werewolf howl
See him slick his hair
With a gobbet of grease
From a chick he has disemboweled
(She was a psychology major, but that's another story.)

Frank X. Mattson Spring City, PA

And, rest assured (in peace!), Frank will likely tell us that story someday! –CK

And I know, 'cause I et HIM! Thanks to Joe Grotenrath II, Alexandria, VA –CK

We've completed reprinting the EC SF title (see local elsewhere this issue to order back numbers), so when this guy was told he was out of a job David A. Barber, Toledo, OH, snapped his phiz for posterity–then snapped his posterior for good measure when he exited! A snappy way to introduce this edition of THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S PAGE OF. . .

FINE ARTS #63

Bill Gaines has exited this mortal coil to better view his legacy still scaring the jeepers out of anyone so imprudent as to room with me, The Vault-Keeper and The Old Witch (and Gog and Magog, I figger! Go figger!)! Hey, Rick Olson, Minneapolis, MN; lights out at 11! –CK

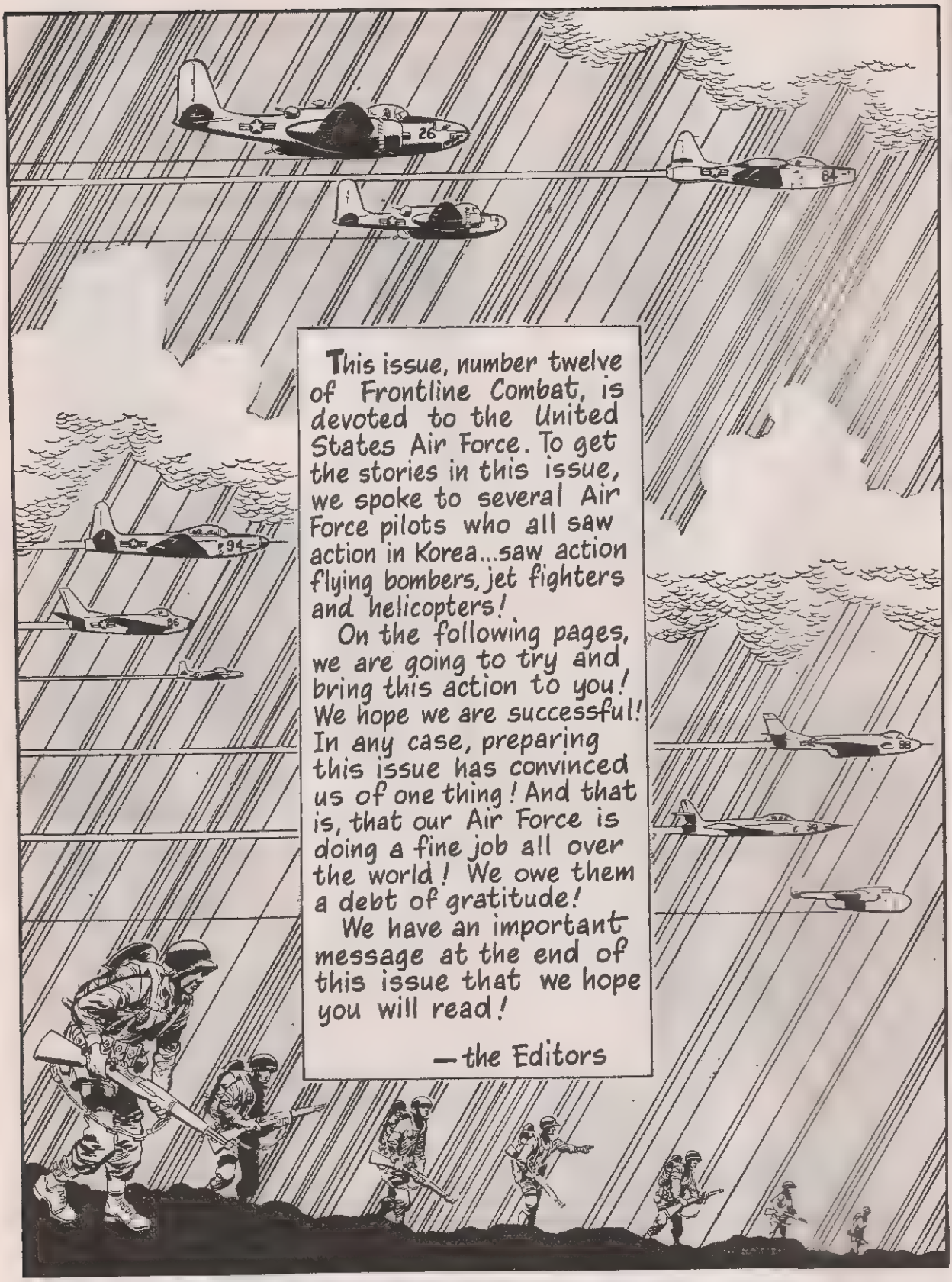
Send your contribs (not returnable, not too long, not too big, legible doublespaced text &/or bold black art. Warning...we edit) to:

THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S

PAGE OF FINE ARTS

GEMSTONE
POB 469
WEST PLAINS MO 65775

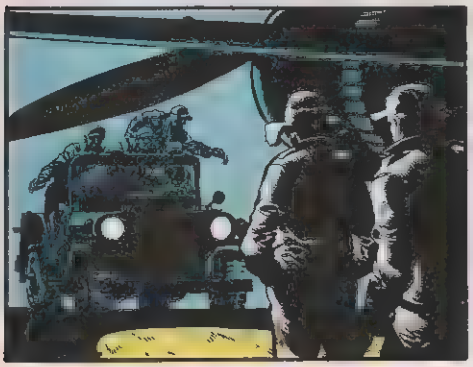
We welcome contributions. We cannot promise to return, acknowledge or publish contributions. We edit for clarity, accuracy and size. We automatically withhold street address and zip code unless you clearly state you with them published. We attempt to acknowledge publication; to do so we need your address on the individual contribution.


This issue, number twelve of Frontline Combat, is devoted to the United States Air Force. To get the stories in this issue, we spoke to several Air Force pilots who all saw action in Korea...saw action flying bombers, jet fighters and helicopters!
On the following pages, we are going to try and bring this action to you! We hope we are successful! In any case, preparing this issue has convinced us of one thing! And that is, that our Air Force is doing a fine job all over the world! We owe them a debt of gratitude!
We have an important message at the end of this issue that we hope you will read!
—the Editors

THE AIR FORCE IN KOREA! NOW WE ARE GOING TO FLY WITH THE BOMBERS! SUPPLIES ARE FLOWING DOWN FROM CHINA TO THE ENEMY! WE ARE GOING TO FLY ON A MISSION TO CHOKE OFF THOSE SUPPLIES! WE ARE GOING ON OPERATION 'STRANGLE' AND WE ARE GOING TO GET A BOMB'S EYE VIEW FROM A DOUGLAS...

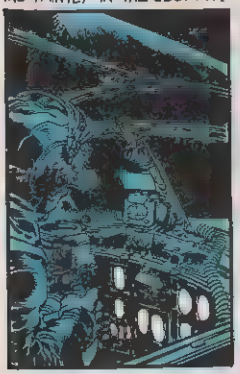
B-26 INVADER!

A BUFF BLACK B-26 SQUATS IN THE KOREAN NIGHT, ILLUMINATED BY THE SWINGING HEADLIGHTS OF A JEEP!.. *LIGHTS!*.. THIS STORY CAN BE *TOLD* IN LIGHTS!



...THE SWINGING FLASHLIGHTS OF THE CREW WHO CLAMBER OUT OF THE JEEP, STROLLING AROUND THE B-26, MAKING THE PRE-FLIGHT CHECK! IT IS ONE A.M.!

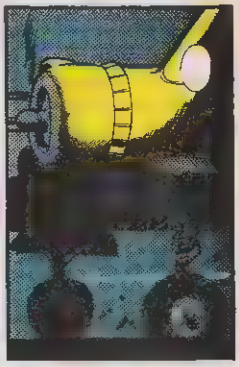
LUMINOUS LIGHTS, PANELS AND DIALS SNAP ON. GLOWING FAINTLY IN THE COCKPIT!



WINGTIP AND TAIL LIGHT BLINK! THE SOMBER SHIP GLOWS WITH ACTIVITY!

NOW THE ENGINES EXPLODE INTO MOTION... EXHAUST FLAMES FLARE BLUE LIGHT!

THE GREAT LANDING LIGHTS BURST ON... TESTING, FOR A BRILLIANT – WHITE MOMENT!

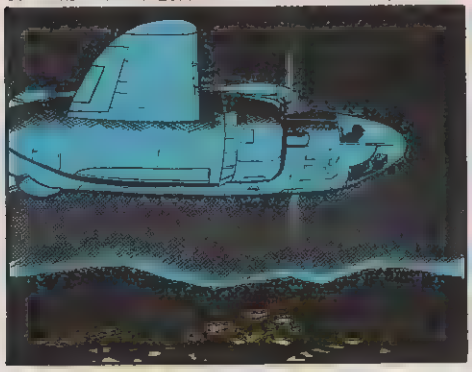


CIRCUITS, CONNECTIONS TESTED! BOMB LOAD, CREWS IN PLACE... THE B-26 TRUNDLES OUT TO THE STRIP!

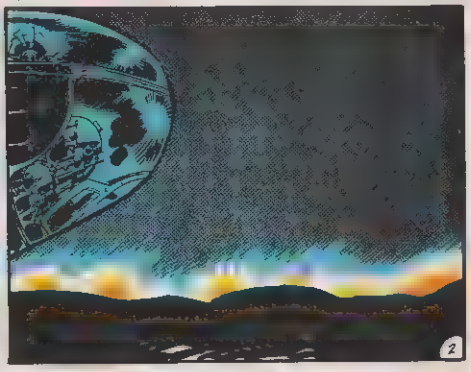
...PAUSES, WINGTIP LIGHTS BLINKING RED, GREEN, RED, GREEN! NOW SHE GROWLS. . RUSHES FORWARD ROARING. .

...AND RISES SWIFTLY INTO THE LONELY MORNING DARKNESS... SIGNAL LIGHTS CONTRACTING TOWARDS NORTH KOREA!

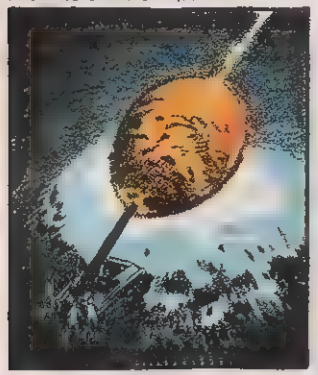
AIRBORNE! LIGHTS TWINKLE UP FROM SOUTH KOREA! CITY LIGHTS! ROAD AND RAILROAD LIGHTS! SHINING UP DIMLY FROM SLEEPING SOUTH KOREA!



THE PRATT AND WHITNEY ENGINES DRONE ON AND ON, HYPNOTICALLY... AND SOON A WEIRD LIGHT PULSING ALONG THE HORIZON BREAKS THE MONOTONY! ***THE FRONT!***



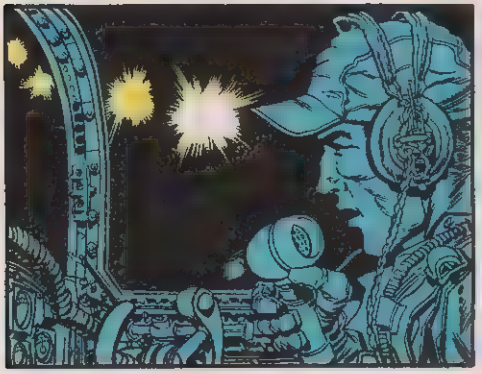
THE FRONT... A CHILLING BAND OF LIGHT ACROSS THE KOREAN PENINSULA! THE FIREBALL LIGHT OF THE CANNON!



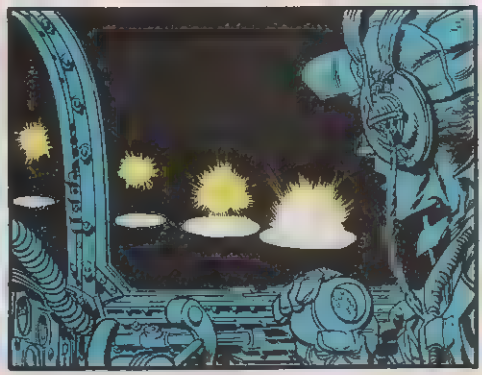
THE LONG SHAFTS OF SEARCH-LIGHTS, PROBING OBLONG PATCHES OF WHITE ONTO NORTH KOREAN GROUND!

THE LIGHTS OF TRACER BULLETS, LIKE GLOWING ORANGE BEADS ARCHING AWAY THROUGH THE BLACKNESS!

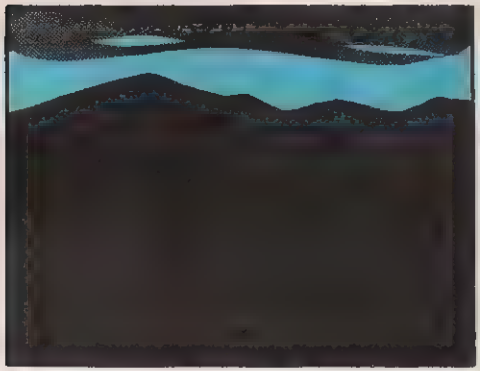
OFF TO THE RIGHT A PATHFINDER PLANE DROPS A STRING OF FLARES LIKE A BRILLIANT NECKLACE! ONE BY ONE, THEY BURST OUT IN THE BLACK...



...AND SLOWLY... QUIETLY... DRIFT ON THEIR PARACHUTES, EACH FALLING, DIRECTLY DOWN ON A WIDENING CIRCLE OF ILLUMINATED NORTH KOREAN GROUND!

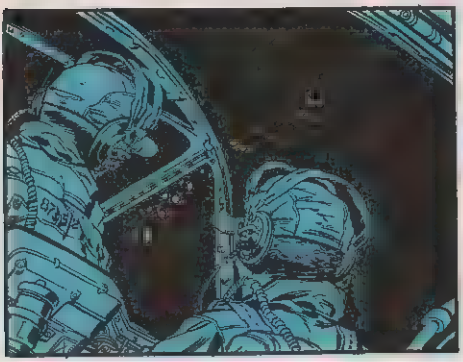


THEN... SUDDENLY AS THEY CAME, THE LIGHTS ARE GONE, AND NORTH KOREA SPREADS PITCH-BLACK BELOW! FOR NORTH KOREA, UNLIKE SOUTH KOREA, IS HIDING!



...HIDING FROM THE B-26'S! BUT SUPPLIES HAVE TO MOVE, AND STRAINING EYES CATCH A ROW OF HEADLIGHTS WINDING ALONG AN INVISIBLE ROAD! ***CONVOY!***

INSIDE THE B-26 A THRILL RUNS THROUGH THE FOUR MAN CREW AS THEY GET READY FOR BUSINESS! THE PILOT CIRCLES AND 'HEADS INTO' THE LIGHTS BELOW!



AT 6000 FEET, THE B-26 GOES INTO ITS BOMB RUN! THE BOMBARDIER HUNCHES OVER HIS SIGHT... GETS A BUBBLE LEVEL...OPENS THE BOMB BAYS AND... ***BOMBS AWAY!***

FOUR 500 LB. GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS DROP IN PAIRS, WHISTLING AWAY IN LONG GRACEFUL ARCS, AND STRIKING THE GROUND WITH VIOLENT FLASHES!

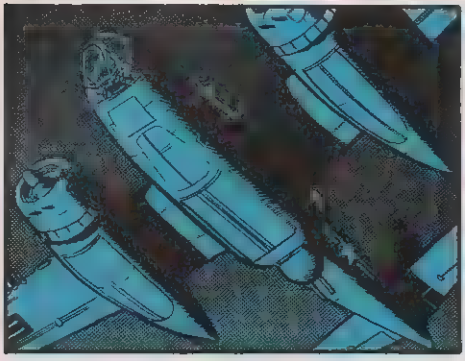
THEN, AS IF A HAND HAS THROWN A MASTER SWITCH, THE HEADLIGHTS.. NOW AWARE OF THE AIRPLANE ABOVE ...BLINK OUT, AND ALL IS DARK ONCE MORE!

THE B-26 NOW RANGES OVER ITS 'REKKY (RECONNAISSANCE) ROUTE,' AND WHEN ITS BOMBS ARE GONE ...

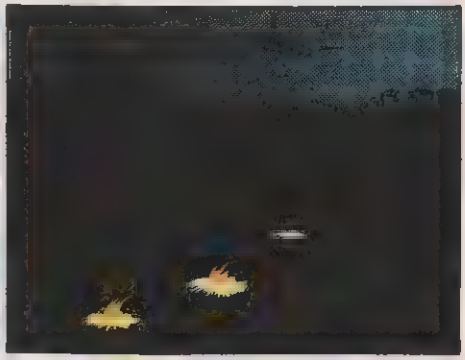
...THE SIX 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS GO TO WORK FIRING ON ANY PEEP OF LIGHT THAT SHOWS...

...TEARING A SWATH OF SPARKLING LIGHTS, LIKE A STRING OF HUGE FIRE CRACKERS, THROUGH THE NIGHT!

THEN... BULLETS EXPENDED, BOMBS GONE, THE B-26, WITH A FINAL ROAR, MAKES A CLIMBING TURN, AND STARTS THE ONE HOUR ROUTINE TRIP BACK HOME!

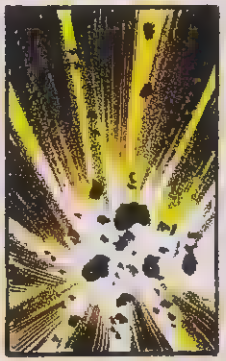


ROUTINE! THE CREW IS SLEEPY... IMPASSIVE! THEY SEE NO MORE OF THEIR TARGETS AND NO MORE OF THEIR RESULTS FAR BEHIND THEM .. BELOW, PINPOINTS OF FIRELIGHT SWELL...



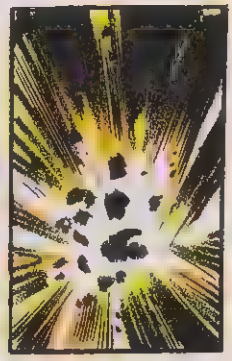
SOMETHING HAS BEEN SET AFIRE IN THE STRAFING RUN! THE ORANGE LIGHT IS YELLOW..

...THEN GROWS WHITE AND ERUPTS WITH THE ROAR THAT EXPLOSIVES MAKE!



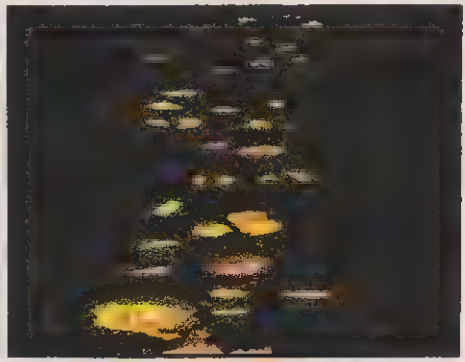
NOW THE FIRE HAS SPREAD AND FIERCELY BURNING PATCHES DOT THE NIGHT!

AGAIN, A BLINDING FLASH AND A ROAR AS ANOTHER AMMUNITION CACHE ERUPTS!



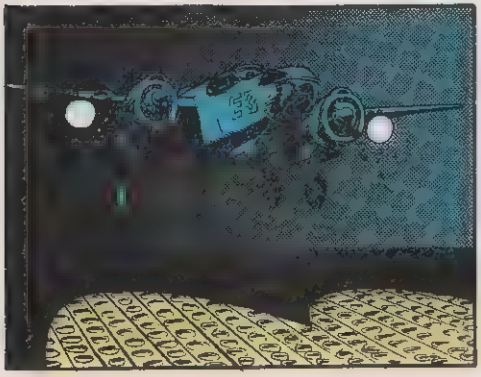
A CHAIN REACTION! ALONG THE ROADWAY... AS BRIGHTLY LIT AS DAYLIGHT, A LINE OF AMMUNITION TRUCKS DETONATE IN BRILLIANT ORANGE FLASHES!

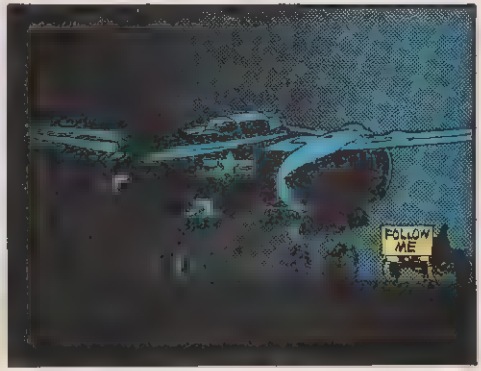
...SOON THEY BLEND IN A FLAMING SMEAR THAT SLOWLY DIES AWAY LIKE A LOG IN THE FIRE-PLACE... RED EMBERS VANISHING ONE BY ONE!



...AND SO ANOTHER ONE OF THOUSANDS OF PATROLS FLYING THE 'REKKY' ROUTES ENDS! THE B-26 DROPS TO THE STEEL MATT BY THE GLARE OF ITS LANDING LIGHTS!

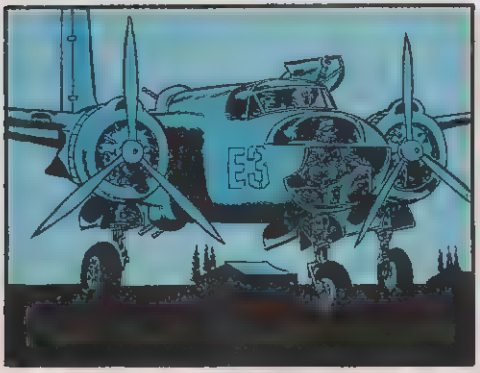
NOW, LIKE AN AWKWARD LAND-BOUND BIRD, IT TAXIS IN TOWARDS THE YELLOW HEADLIGHTS OF A WAITING JEEP! THE TIME IS NOW FOUR A.M.!

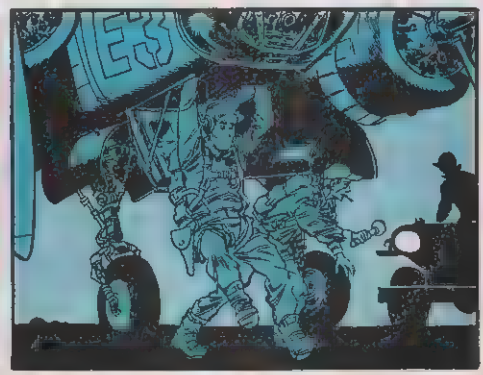


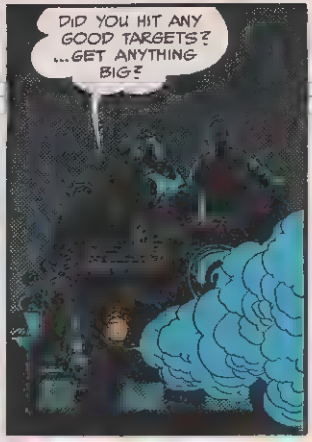


THE RIGHT AND LEFT ENGINES ARE CUT, SWITCHES SNAPPED OFF, THE LIGHTS GO OUT, AND ONCE MORE THE B-26 IS A LIFELESS MACHINE SITTING IN THE GLOOM!

...AND ONCE MORE... THE SWINGING FLASHLIGHTS, THE GLOW OF A CIGARETTE OR TWO, AND THE SLEEPY CREW TUMBLES INTO THE JEEP, ANXIOUS TO GET TO BED!

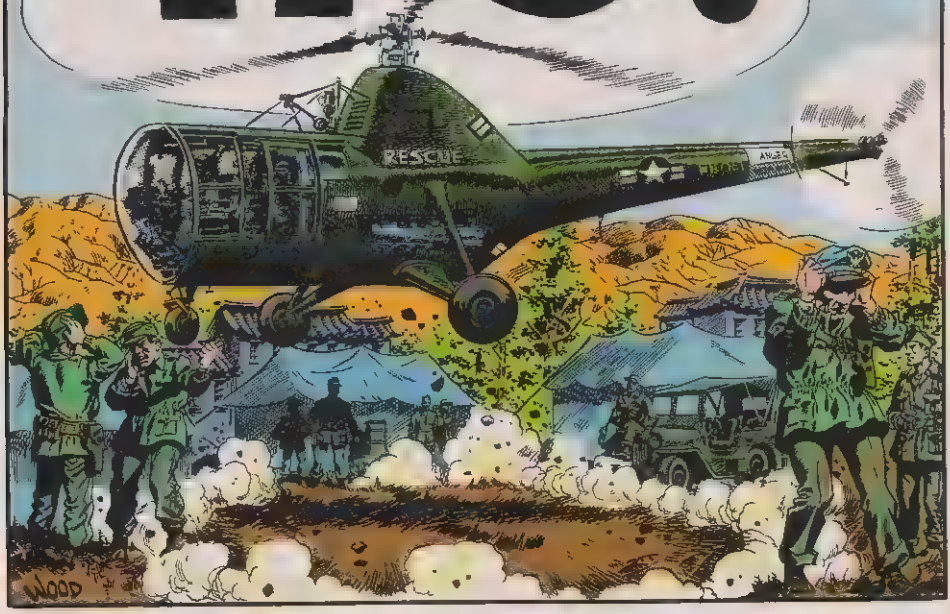




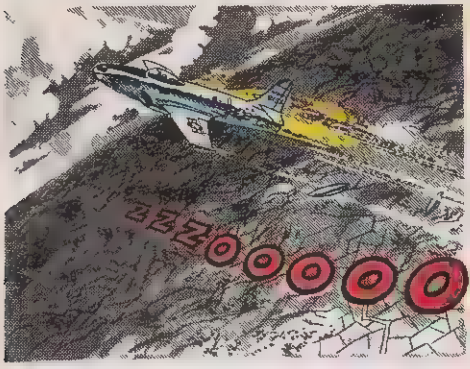


THE AIR FORCE IN KOREA! NOW... LEAVE THE SOBER PLODDING BOMBERS, THEIR BELLIES FILLED WITH DEATH! LEAVE THE FANTASTIC, STREAKING, SCORPION-LIKE JETS... AND TURN TO THEIR AWKWARD COUSIN! THIS LOP-SIDED ANGEL OF MERCY... THIS WONDER OF SCIENTIFIC ENGINEERING... THE HELICOPTER! THE SIKORSKY...

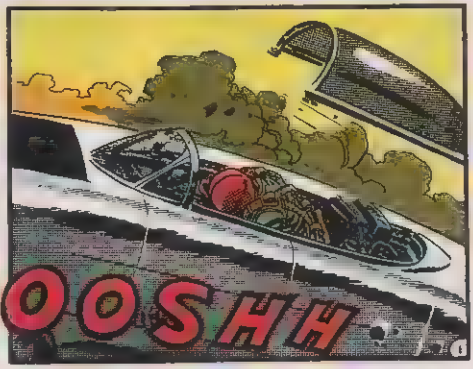
H-5!



IT IS EARLY IN THE KOREAN WAR! IN THE NORTHERN SKY... AN F-80, WOUNDED BY A FLAK-BURST, DROPS ITS WING TANKS AND STRAINS FOR ALTITUDE!



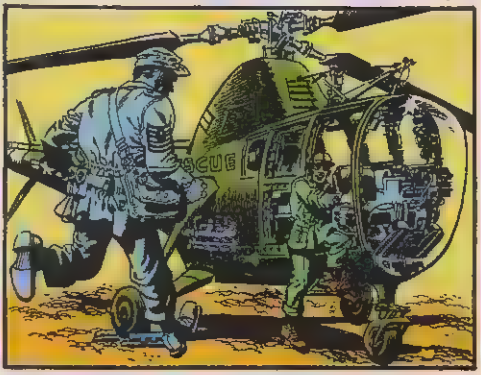
THE F-80 PILOT YELLS 'MAY-DAY!.. INTERNATIONAL SIGNAL FOR 'I'VE BEEN HIT!... PULLS THE CANOPY RELEASE, UNFASTENS HIS SAFETY BELT, HIS OXYGEN MASK AND...



...WONDER IF I'LL EVER SEE HOME AGAIN!... DIVE FOR THE WING!
NOTE: THIS JET WAS NOT EQUIPPED WITH EJECTION SEAT DEVICE.
...CLEAR THE AIRPLANE... TWO HANDS ON THE RIPCORD POCKET... FOUR-A-THOUSAND... FIVE-A-THOUSAND... RIP!
...STRAIGHTEN LEGS... FEET TOGETHER TO REDUCE OPENING SHOCK... WHUF!
...SO THIS IS WHAT A 'NYLON LET-DOWN' IS LIKE!
... FACE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE DRIFT!
... NORTH KOREA UNDER ME! I'M MILES FROM OUR LINES!
...LAND ON THE BALLS OF THE FEET... RELAX... ROLL WHEN YOU HIT...
...MADE IT! I MADE IT!
...MADE WHAT? SOLDIERS ARE COMING!... GUESS I AM NEVER GOING HOME!

UP FRONT, A FIELD PHONE JANGLES AT A HELICOPTER BASE! A FLYER 'IN THE BARREL' OR, ON CALL FOR THE DAY, ANSWERS! HIS BUDDIES JOKE, **'PILOT ON THE YALU!'**

FOR PICKING A PILOT WAY OUT OF THE MANCHURIAN YALU RIVER BORDER IS ROUGH! ...ANYHOW, A PILOT *IS* DOWN JUST A FEW MILES INSIDE NORTH KOREA!



THE 'COPTER PILOT SITS FRONT. . HIS ASSISTANT, REAR! THE ENGINE BLASTS ON!

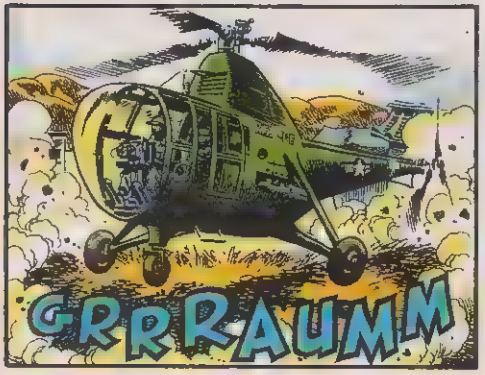
WITH THROTTLE WIDE OPEN, A CENTRIFUGAL DEVICE CATCHES THE BLADES, AND...

...THEY TURN SLOWLY AT FIRST, THEN BUILDING UP MOMENTUM, WHIP BY...

...QUICKER WITH THE TWIST OF THE MOTORCYCLE THROTTLE ON THE SLANTED PITCH STICK!

NOW THE HELICOPTER ROARS AND SHUDDERS LIKE A DEMON, AND AS THE PITCH STICK IS PULLED UP, THE ROTOR-BLADES BITE THE AIR, AND THE 'COPTER SMOOTHLY RISES!

AZIMUTH STICK FORWARD... THE WHOLE ROTOR-HEAD TILTS AND, NOSE DOWN LIKE A BULL, THE H-5 BUZZES OFF TO MEET ITS FIGHTER ESCORT IN NORTH KOREA!

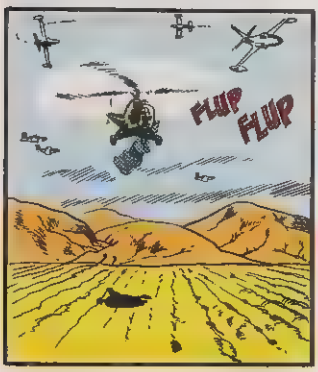


THE CHINESE ARE SO CLOSE TO ME... THE BOYS UPSTAIRS CAN'T STRAFE 'EM!... THIS IS THE END!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT? AN EGG-BEATER!
FOXTAIL THREE TO HELICOPTER! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ROGER, FOXTAIL THREE! THE CHINESE ARE FIRING ON YOU!
FOXTAIL THREE! WE HAVE YOU IN SIGHT!
WE'RE COMING DOWN! STAND BY TO BE PICKED UP!
STAND BY!
HOT DOG! I'LL GET OUT OF HERE YET!
OH, NO!
WELCOME ON BOARD, SIR!
OIL! YOU'RE LEAKING OIL! A BULLET MUST'VE HIT YOUR OIL LINE!
4

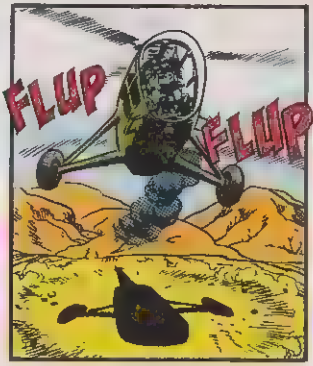
THE HELICOPTER, WHICH HAS BEEN AT THE 'HOVER', ABRUPTLY RISES AND SOARS AWAY, ROTOR-BLADES WHIPPING BACK A FINE SPRAY OF PRECIOUS OIL!

...THE LAST DROP OF LUBRICATING OIL LEAVES THE ENGINE!... HEAD TEMPERATURE UP 280 DEGREES..., OIL PRESSURE, ZERO... AND THE ENGINE 'FREEZES'!

AN 'AUTO-ROTATION' LANDING! THE PRESSURE OF THE WIND KEEPS THE ROTOR-BLADE SWINGING AROUND!

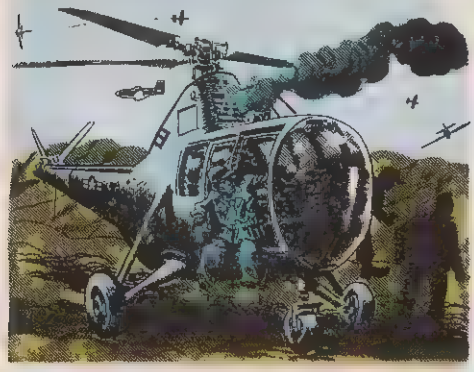


PITCH STICK FORWARD...THE 'COPTER GOES INTO A STEEP GLIDE... THEN, NOSE UP JUST ABOVE THE RICE PADDY...

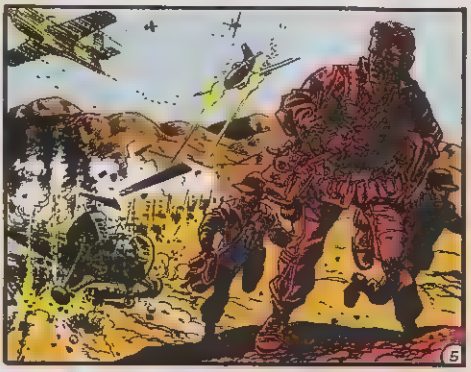


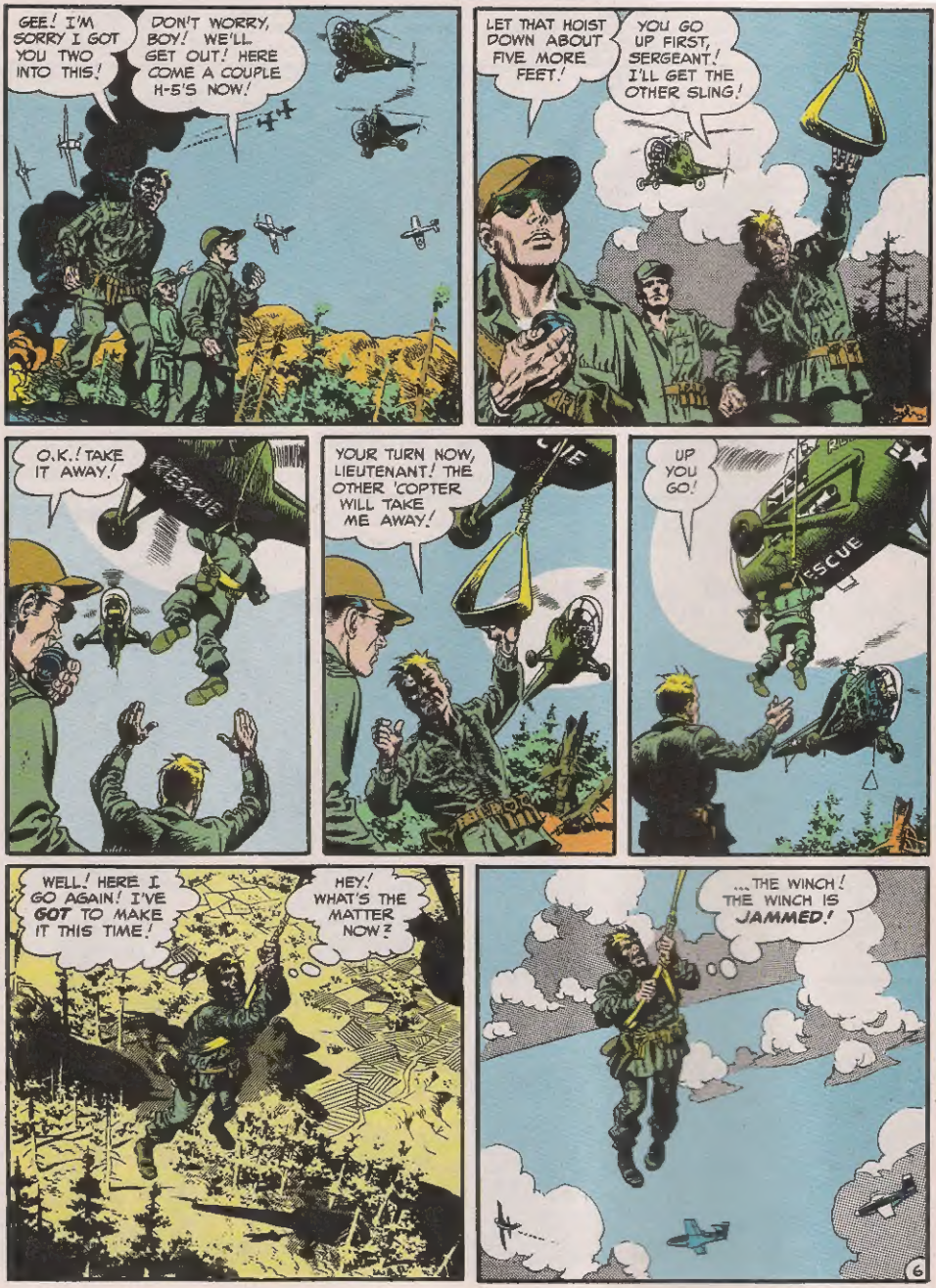
THIS 'FLARE' BRAKES THE FORWARD MOTION AND THE HELICOPTER NOW DROPS STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE GROUND!

AT LEAST THE HELICOPTER HAS PUT FIVE MILES BETWEEN IT AND THE ENEMY TROOPS! WHILE A FIGHTER 'CAP' OF F-51'S AND F-80'S ORBIT OVERHEAD...



...THE MEN GRAB THEIR EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND HEAD FOR A HIGH HILL! THE FIGHTERS DESTROY THE HELICOPTER TO KEEP IT OUT OF ENEMY HANDS!




GEE! I'M SORRY I GOT YOU TWO INTO THIS!
DON'T WORRY, BOY! WE'LL GET OUT! HERE COME A COUPLE H-5'S NOW!
LET THAT HOIST DOWN ABOUT FIVE MORE FEET!
YOU GO UP FIRST, SERGEANT! I'LL GET THE OTHER SLING!
O.K.! TAKE IT AWAY!
RESCUE
YOUR TURN NOW, LIEUTENANT! THE OTHER 'COPTER WILL TAKE ME AWAY!
UP YOU GO!
RESCUE
WELL! HERE I GO AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT THIS TIME!
HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW?
...THE WINCH! THE WINCH IS JAMMED!
6

FOR SOME REASON, THE HOIST HAS GONE INOPERATIVE... SO THE HELICOPTER JERKS UPWARD, LIFTING THE DANGLING PILOT FREE OF THE TREES!

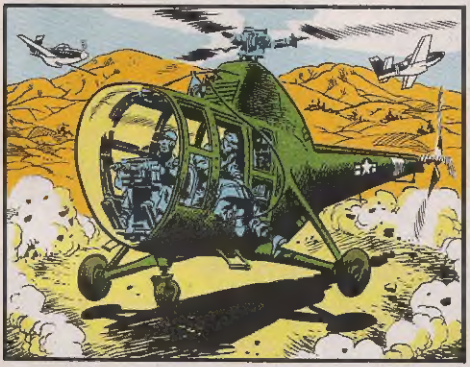
...AND THEN WITH THE TINY FIGURE TRAILING BEHIND, THE H-5 RISES AWAY OVER THE HILL... PAUSES... THEN RAPIDLY DESCENDS INTO THE VALLEY...

...DESCENDS VERTICALLY TOWARD ONE OF THE CONVENIENT FURROWED KOREAN RICE PADDIES DOWN BELOW!

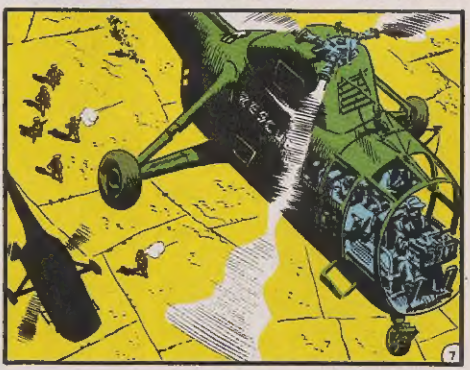
...PUSH THE PITCH STICK DOWN... SLOWLY... DOWN! THE GROUND RISES SMOOTHLY UP TO MEET THE HELICOPTER!

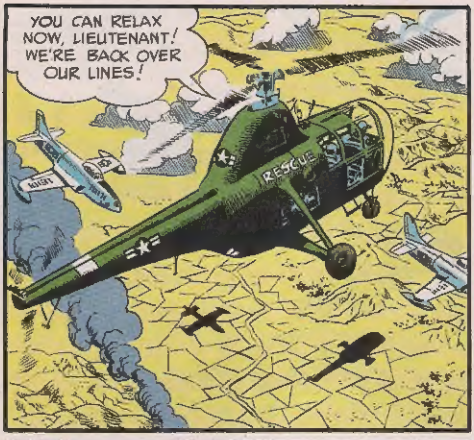
THE SUSPENDED PILOT'S HANGING FEET COME GENTLY INTO CONTACT ONCE MORE WITH THE SOLID EARTH!

THE 'COPTER SETTLES, COMING TO A HOVER INCHES ABOVE THE GROUND! IT TAKES A SECOND FOR THE F-80 PILOT TO TWIST FREE OF THE SLING INTO THE HELICOPTER...

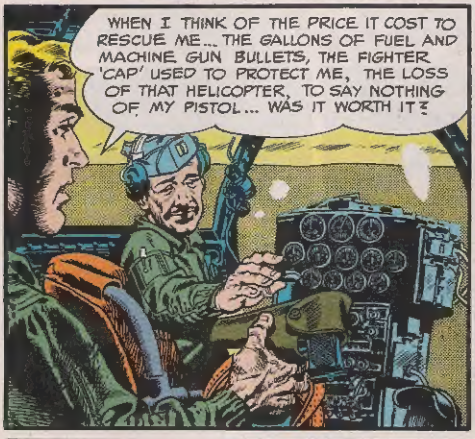


...AND THEY'RE AWAY, WHIRRING HOME AT 60 MILES PER HOUR! NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON, FOR DOWN BELOW A SQUAD OF CHINESE TROOPS ARE SEEN RUSHING ACROSS THE PADDY!




YOU CAN RELAX NOW, LIEUTENANT! WE'RE BACK OVER OUR LINES!
RESCUE

...TELL YOU THE TRUTH, FELLAS, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT.'
I BELIEVE IT'S THE CUSTOM, CAPTAIN, TO MAKE A GIFT OF A PISTOL TO THE RESCUING PILOT! HERE YOU ARE, SIR, AND THANKS!


WHEN I THINK OF THE PRICE IT COST TO RESCUE ME... THE GALLONS OF FUEL AND MACHINE GUN BULLETS, THE FIGHTER 'CAP' USED TO PROTECT ME, THE LOSS OF THAT HELICOPTER, TO SAY NOTHING OF MY PISTOL... WAS IT WORTH IT?

WELL, THE WAY THE AIR FORCE SEES IT, LIEUTENANT, YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE-TAG ON ANY MAN'S LIFE! ANYHOW, IF YOU EVER TOOK THE TROUBLE TO FIGURE HOW MUCH MONEY IT TOOK THE GOVERNMENT TO TRAIN YOU...

...YOU'D REALIZE THAT YOU'RE THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM OF THEM ALL!

YOU KNOW... THIS IS A PRETTY GOL-DURNED GOOD AIR FORCE!

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS,
U.S. AIR FORCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

GENTLEMEN:

I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW I CAN EARN MY WINGS IN THE GROUND OBSERVER CORPS.

MY NAME IS: _____ PLEASE PRINT

MY ADDRESS IS: _____ CITY

ORIGINAL 1953 COUPON. DO NOT RESPOND!

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THE U.S. AIR FORCE NEEDS YOUR HELP!
Although the Air Force keeps a round-the-clock watch, their equipment cannot detect all airplanes crossing our borders! The Ground Observer Corps has been formed so that civilians, in their spare time, can serve as air spotters for the Air Force! If you are interested in earning the wings shown above... the badge of Ground Observer Corps... please clip and send the attached coupon to:
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U.S. AIR FORCE, WASH., D.C.
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